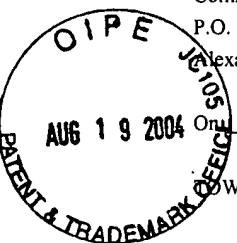


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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 016866-001514
Client Ref. No.: D-5639-PCT-US-D2



By: Linda Sheffer
TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

T. William Hutchens *et al.*

Application No.: 10/700,297

Filed: October 31, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
DESORPTION AND IONIZATION OF
ANALYTES

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 2693

Examiner:

Technology Center/Art Unit: 1743

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 30 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 31 of this paper and include both attached replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

Remarks begin on page 32 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 32 of this paper.